

## Items of Interest.

—Prof. L. L. Dyche, of the University of Kansas, has gone to Alaska with a view to Arctic explorations.

—Whiskey has no respect for bullion nor birth; it will stagger a millionaire or a prince as quickly as a pauper or a tramp.

—Dr. Nathaniel L. Britton, Professor of Botany at Columbia College, has been appointed director of the new Botanical Garden which is to be established in New York City.

—A bill passed Congress increasing the maximum pay of the letter carriers at first-class postoffices from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year, and at smaller offices from \$800 to \$1,000.

—Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria said lately that universal suffrage does not suit Austria, and added: "Universal suffrage has been a failure in every county in which it has been introduced."

—Working men at Hazleton, Pa., are enforcing the gold standard practically. Last week those engaged in building a large reservoir refused to receive anything but gold in pay, and the employes had to furnish it to them. Other contractors have been forced to do the same.

—Bishop Taylor refuses to be laid on the shelf. He has sailed for South Africa, where he will do evangelistic work in the missions of the English Wesleyans, leaving his missions on the Congo entirely to his successor, Bishop Hartzell. The two bishops are in perfect accord.

—The improvement in the matter of drinking in the English army has been very great. Beer-money has been abolished, and grog is no longer issued on sea voyages. Nearly one-third the whole British army in India are total abstainers. This wonderful advance has been made within the last few years.

—The seventh Annual Convention of the Young People's Christian Union of the Universalist church will be held in Jersey City, N. J., July 8-14. This organization has the same relation to the Universalist denomination as do the Christian Endeavor, Epworth League, and Baptist Union to other denominations.

—The constitutionality of the Omaha curfew ordinance which requires children to be off the streets at nine o'clock is questioned. The Chief of Police is much pleased with the workings of the law and so are parents who are not ashamed to confess that they cannot control their children. This is a good move and should be enforced in all cities.

—The Supreme Court of Indiana has made a most sweeping decision in favor of the Nicholson Temperance law, to the great rejoicing of all good men and the great grief of saloon-keepers. Among the points decided were the right to sell liquor in a grocery, or in connection with any kind of business; keeping billiard tables or any games where liquor is sold, or putting up screens or blinds.

—Garrett A. Hobart, Republican nominee for Vice President of the United States, is one of New Jersey's most popular citizens. His home is in Paterson. He is fifty-two years old, and is a lawyer. He is largely identified, however, with business enterprises. He has not held many public offices, but has been signally successful where he has been called to such responsibilities. He is a man of fine reputation as to personal characteristics.

—A question that is now being raised is, does the bicycle cause hard times? It is estimated that there are nearly 4,000,000 riders of the "silent steed" now in this country, and that 1,000,000 wheels will be made and sold this year,—at a cost to the buyer of from \$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000. It is stated that in New York City alone there are 250,000 riders, whose wheels cost over \$13,000,000. The money invested in these wheels is taken from other channels of business, and has undoubtedly something to do with the hard times.

—Hon. Elijah P. Morse, a member of the present Congress, from Massachusetts, while speaking against the bill which allows distillers to bottle whisky which had been in bondage four years said, "The sign over every rumshop ought to be in fire, and there ought to be a skull and crossbones over the door for a trade mark." Those are daring words but nevertheless true and it is some satisfaction to know that they were earnestly applauded by some who heard them. There is no question but that the saloon is the greatest evil in this country to-day.

—The death of Lyman Trumbull at Chicago, Ill., removes one of the last of the prominent figures associated with the organization of the Republican party and the emancipation of the slave. Ex-Senator Trumbull was born in Colchester, Conn., in 1813. After teaching school for several years he began the practice of law in Illinois in 1837. After the defeat of Greeley, he joined the Democratic party, and in 1880 was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois. In his later life he became identified with the Populist party, and was prominently spoken of for the presidential nomination this year.

## Literary Notes.

### HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S LAST LETTER.

The last thing written by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, only a few days before her death, was a loving acknowledgement to the public for fond remembrances and tokens and expressions of affectionate esteem, on her 85th birthday, which she sent to *The Ladies' Home Journal*. In the next issue of this magazine it will be published in *fac simile*. It reflects the beautiful nature of the gifted authoress, and by her death has become her last message to the American public.

### DICKENS' PERSONAL SIDE.

Stephen Fiske, who probably knew Dicken as intimately as did any American, has been induced to write of "The Personal Side of Dickens" for the September *Ladies' Home Journal*. Mr. Fiske often spent seasons with the famous novelist at Gad's Hill, and his article will describe the incidents of these visits, Dickens' home life, his method of working, and his pastimes. It will possibly surprise Dickens' friends to learn, through Mr. Fiske, that a considerable portion of his library was made up of dummy books, which, however, offered the author a target for some of his delightful satire in giving them titles, and afforded his guests great amusement.

The Fourth of July number of *The Youth's Companion* is at hand. Exciting adventures and narrow escapes on land and sea—capturing a grizzly in the Rockies, an effort to eclipse all previous explosions in the combination of a balloon with dynamite cartridges, the rival celebrations of two military companies, etc.,—make this number of *The Companion* a veritable cannon-cracker among weekly papers.

The demand for good short stories never ends. The difficulty is to meet the demand with nothing but short stories of first-class quality. No paper in America does this better than *The Youth's Companion*. Week after week and year after year it comes out, always with good stories, new in plot and skilful in treatment, until one wonders where it gets them all, and how it preserves its infinite variety. The editors of no other publication have a larger number of manuscripts submitted for them to choose from. Over seven thousand were received in the last prize competition. The paper includes among its regular contributors such writers as Harold Frederic, C. A. Stephens, E. W. Thomson and J. L. Harbour.